

## WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

**Gal 5:16** *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

If you have noticed, the world is a mess! What makes the world a mess is people. People today are a mess. Many Christians are seemingly as big a mess as the people that do not know Christ. They are addicted to the same things the world are addicted to. They are addicted to alcohol, food, sex, drugs, tv, etc. They have the same bondages to anger, jealousy, bitterness, selfishness, etc as the world. It is sad to say that many of these Christians have adopted the same methods of trying to deal with these that the world offers. First of all the world does not call these addictions sins. They are “problems” or “issues”. The most popular way the world deals with these today is by **recovery groups**. There are even many “Christian” recovery groups. Recovery groups focus on emotional healing. The world thinks that behavior problems are rooted in the mind and emotions. The Bible reveals they are rooted deeper than the soul. The Bible reveals these are spiritual sins, therefore, they can only be truly dealt with spiritually. You cannot find God's prescribing a 12 step recovery program to break addictions. Find one verse in the Bible that directs us to do this. God gave Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected to break addictions! **ALL** addictions and behavior problems are rooted in what the Bible calls the **FLESH**. The principle of sin dwells in the human body. [**Romans 8:4**] The body is not itself sinful, but sin in the flesh is! You can have a splinter in your finger. Your finger is not bad, but what is in your finger is! The **FLESH** is at the root of all behavior problems. There is but one solution for overcoming the **FLESH**. Biblically it is **WALKING IN THE SPIRIT**. What the church needs to do is start “Walking in the Spirit” programs! Paul said positively that if you walk by the Spirit, you **WILL NOT** gratify the desires of the flesh. This means you will overcome all addictions by

**WALKING IN THE SPIRIT!** Therefore, it is paramount that we understand what walking in the Spirit is and how to do it.

What does it mean to walk in the Spirit? We cannot find one verse in the New Testament that comes out and defines this term and explains it, but we can safely compare scripture with scripture and come to a solid conclusion on exactly what it is to walk in the Spirit. Let's start piecing some scriptures together to do this. First let's look at the word "walk". We are to walk in the Spirit. Let's see another verse that speaks on how we are to walk in the Lord.

**2Co 5:7** for **we walk by faith**, not by sight.

Here Paul tells us the Christian's walk is a walk of faith. Let's put that meaning into walking in the Spirit. To walk in the Spirit involves walking in faith. Faith in what? In the New Testament faith is never isolated. Faith is **ALWAYS** rooted in the **GRACE** of God.

**Eph 2:8** For **by grace you have been saved through faith**. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

**Rom 4:16** Therefore ***it is of faith, that *it might be by grace****; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

So walking in the Spirit involves walking in faith in God's grace. God's grace is what God does for man, and not what man does for God. Grace is 100 percent of what God does for man in which man adds nothing. He can accept or reject it, but he cannot add his efforts to it. The source of God's grace to man was given to us by the giving of the Spirit of Christ. When we got saved the Spirit of Christ came to indwell us and empower us to bear His fruit and live a supernatural life. [**Gal. 5:22-23**] Walking in the Spirit then is to walk in faith in the Spirit's ability to

produce **FOR** us everything we need to live the Christian life. Since the Spirit of Christ has been joined to us and we are in union with Him, what the Spirit does **IN** us He will also do **THROUGH** us.

Let's look at some other scriptures to back up what we have looked at already.

**Col 2:6** As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Here we have our word “walk” again. How are we to walk as a Christian? We are to walk **IN HIM**. This means we are to walk in union with Christ. More specifically we are to walk in Christ the **SAME** exact way we received Christ. How did we receive Christ in the beginning? We received Him by grace through faith. We saw that in Ephesians 2:8. Christ did **ALL** the work for us to justify us so this verse teaches the Christ must produce **ALL** the work **FOR** us to sanctify us. As we cooperated in the new birth by believing, so our part is the same in sanctification which also is to believe.

**Gal 3:3** Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

Here we see that Paul is telling the Galatians that they began in the Spirit. When did they begin with the Lord? When they were saved. How did they get saved? It was by grace through faith. Paul said this was **beginning in the Spirit!** If this is beginning in the Spirit, then what is walking or continuing in the Spirit? It is continuing to trust in God's grace by faith in what He does **FOR** them! These Galatians instead of continuing or walking in the Spirit were trying to perfect themselves by their flesh- THEIR OWN EFFORTS! Did you get that!

**Gal 5:25** If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

When we received Christ by faith we came alive by the Spirit. We did this by faith in God's grace. We did not help God at all in saving us. We received salvation. If we live in the Spirit, we must also **WALK** in the Spirit. This simply is what Paul said in [**Colossians 2:6**] As you have received the Lord Jesus, **SO WALK YOU IN HIM!** As you began in the Spirit, so now you are to walk in the Spirit.

I believe we have laid out clearly that walking in the Spirit means to trust in the Spirit's providing the grace to live the Christian life **IN** us and **THROUGH** us! This is what I call walking in "**the Christ Life**"!

This is all fine and good but how do we practically walk in the Spirit? We walk in the Spirit by ceasing from our own efforts to overcome sin and the flesh by our will power. We must stop trying to perfect ourselves by our flesh! **STOP IT!** As we began in the Spirit, we are to be also perfected by what the Spirit produces in and through us by faith. Instead of trying to live for the Lord, we are to place our faith in the Lord within us to live **FOR** us and **THROUGH** us, doing **FOR** us what we cannot do ourselves.

Practically, when temptation to sin comes to us, we simply need to admit we cannot overcome it and save ourselves. Instead of fighting the temptation and flesh ourselves, we simply turn over the situation entirely to the Lord to overcome **FOR** us. We then trust Him to do all the work of delivering us by simple faith like we did when we got saved in the beginning! When we do this the Spirit will mortify the deeds of the flesh and manifest His life in us and through us. [**Romans 8:13**] Since what the Spirit does in us He does through us, we need to cooperate by following the leadings of the Holy Spirit by faith. Walking in the Spirit really is not hard. God does the hard part! Our part is to humble ourselves and receive His salvation moment by moment. Are you ready to walk in the Spirit? The Spirit is ready!